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Marko Elez

Marko Elez (born 1999 or 2000) is a software engineer and a government employee as part of Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). He came under public scrutiny after being granted administrator-level access to critical U.S. Treasury payment systems. He has no previous experience in government or finance.[1]

Marko Elez	
Born	1999/2000 (age 25–26)
Education	Rutgers University
Occupation(s)	Software engineer, Department of Government Efficiency

Education and career

Marko Elez graduated from Rutgers University in 2021, where he studied software development and distributed systems.[1] After graduating, Elez worked at SpaceX, where he was involved in vehicle telemetry, Starship software, and satellite systems.[2] He later joined X (formerly Twitter), focusing on search AI and software development. His work experience prior to DOGE was exclusively within Elon Musk's companies.[3]

Department of Government Efficiency

Elez was appointed to Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and subsequently given administrator-level access to the Payment Automation Manager and Secure Payment System at the Bureau of the Fiscal Service (BFS).[1] His privileges allowed him to modify critical financial infrastructure, despite concerns from Treasury officials and lawmakers. In early February 2025, Elez visited a Treasury facility in Kansas City, meeting with BFS staff and gaining deeper insight into the federal payment processing system.[4][5] His access to treasury systems was restricted on February 5th.[6]

Concerns remain that DOGE's influence could allow for politically motivated financial decisions.[3] Treasury officials revoked Elez's system access on February 5th. In court filings on February 11, the Treasury Department acknowledged that Elez had been inadvertently granted read/write permissions to the payment system, revising their previous assertion that he had only read-only access.[7][8] The government maintained that Elez had not used his ability to edit treasury systems.[9][10]

DOGE resignation and reinstatement

Elez resigned from DOGE on February 6, 2025, after being linked to a deleted social-media account containing racist content; the account had also posted in support of eugenics.[11] The Tweets made by the account, under the handle @nullllptr,[11] included statements such as "I would not mind at all if Gaza and Israel were both wiped off the face of the Earth" in June 2024 and "Just for the record, I was racist before it was cool" in July 2024. In September 2024, shortly before the account's deletion, it posted, "You could not pay me to marry outside of my ethnicity" and "Normalize Indian hate."[12][13][14]

The following day, Elon Musk initiated a poll on X asking users whether Elez should be rehired.[15][16] The majority of the 385,000 X users polled said that Elez should be rehired.[17] Musk stated that “to err is human, to forgive divine.”[18][19]

Vice President JD Vance subsequently advocated for Elez's reinstatement.[20][21][22] Vance wrote in a post on X that while he did not agree "with some of Elez's posts... I don't think stupid social media activity should ruin a kid's life."[23]

President Donald Trump endorsed Vance's position at a news conference, after which Musk announced Elez's reinstatement.[24][25][26] Some Indian American groups protested the descision to rehire Elez.[27] U.S. representative Ro Khanna challenged JD Vance directly over the decision.[28][29]

See also

- United States Senate Committee on Appropriations – Standing committee of the United States Senate

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